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A Lesson on The Different Bird by Ban Hamadeh

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Different bird

Lesson Description: During this lesson, students will build off the information found in the text in order to think critically and form their own opinions. Students will learn reading, writing, vocabulary, critical thinking and comprehension skills. Students will be asked to read a short story and answer questions related to the theme, meaning, and vocabulary. Students will also be asked opinion based questions that will promote engagement and critical thinking.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

The Different Bird

by

Content: There was a bird that loved to listen to the other birds sing. The bird listened to their songs and thought, I wish I could sing like that, too. But, the bird was unable to sing. All that the bird could do was make little clicking sounds, and it could make a sound like the wind. Nothing happened when the bird tried to sing, just a click, click, click, whoosh sound came out. Thats all that anyone ever heard from the bird.

All the other birds laughed and laughed at her. They all joined in and taunted, Birds of a feather flock together. Even though you have feathers, youre not like us, so you cant be part of our flock.

Oh dear, sighed the bird. She sat in her tree and worried. She wasnt exactly sure what a flock was, but she knew the other birds laughed at her, and she knew it was because she was different. The bird said to herself, No other birds will want to be my friends because they all think Im strange.

Every day the bird tried so hard to sing, but every day she just made the same clicking sound.

One day, while perched in the forest, the bird heard a new sound. It was the sound of people talking. The bird stopped and listened intently.

Then, something very strange happened. The bird discovered she could talk, too. She was able to say the same words the people in the forest were saying.

A man said, Look at all the beautiful trees. Then the bird also said, Look at all the beautiful trees. Another man asked, surprised, Did you just hear that bird? It talked! The bird repeated, Did you just hear that bird? It talked!

Now, all the people in the forest stopped to listen to the bird speak. One person would say something, and then the bird would echo what he had said. The people left, saying What a special bird! They heard, What a special bird! as they walked out of the forest. The bird had followed them.

Every day after that, people would come to the forest, and the bird would repeat what they said. Now, all the other birds looked at her differently.

Youre our hero, they stated. Youre such a special bird.

After that day in the forest, the bird had many friends. She still couldnt sing, but she could talk. Although she was different, she and the other birds agreed that different was special. Being different felt very good. One bird said, Being different is like being a diamond. There are many rocks, but there are not many diamonds. Sometimes you dont see how bright a diamond is at first.

Now, we see how great you are. You are our diamond.

If you know someone who is different, remember this story. Everyone is special and everyone can do different things. Dont judge other people. See who they are; learn what they can do. Be their friend. If you do that, you will find many special people.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Flock **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Even though you have feathers, you're not like us, so you can't be part of our flock. What does the word "flock" mean in this sentence?

- A: Group of friends
- B: Circle
- C: Group of birds
- D: Group of people

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "flock" correctly?

- A: Mom let me eat a flock of dessert.
- B: There was a flock under my bed.
- C: I drove the flock to school.
- D: The flock of birds traveled together.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Echo **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: One person would say something, and then the bird would echo what he had said. What does the word "echo" mean in this sentence?

- A: Ask
- B: Laugh
- C: Repeat
- D: Ignore

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "echo" correctly?

- A: His voice would echo in the cave.
- B: The echo made her laugh.
- C: My sister loved to play with the echo.
- D: The echo fell on the floor.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Taunted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: They all joined in and taunted, "Birds of a feather flock together." What does the word "taunted" mean in this sentence?

- A: Flew
- B: Mocked
- C: Explained
- D: Asked

Question: Which sentence uses the word "taunted" correctly?

- A: The bullies taunted the younger student.
- B: She borrowed the taunted pen.
- C: The hikers taunted up the mountain.
- D: My brother went to the store and taunted an apple.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Perched **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: One day, while perched in the forest, the bird heard a new sound. What does the word "perched" mean in this sentence?

- A: Running
- B: Eating
- C: Resting
- D: Looking

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "perched" correctly?

- A: The phone was ringing so I perched the call.
- B: I picked up the magazine and perched through all the pictures.
- C: The cake was so good that I perched all of it.
- D: The bird was perched in it's cage.

Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - How would you react?

Within the story, the other birds laughed at the bird who could not sing. How would you react to someone who was unable to do something? Explain your answer below.?

2 - Difference of reaction...

What was the difference between how the people reacted to the bird who could not sing and how the other birds reacted? Explain your answer below.?

3 - Why was the bird special?

In the story, there is a bird who is unable to sing. Why do you think the bird was considered special at the end of the story? Explain your answer below.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In the story, the other birds mocked the bird who could not sing. What made the other birds change their minds at the end of the story? How would you change the way the other birds treated the bird who could not sing? Explain your answer in at least 1 full paragraph and provide specific examples from the text.?

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